

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /068 W

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R 231538Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7626

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 0951

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, PFOR, NL

SUBJ: DUTCH PRESS REPORTS BRIBERY MAY HAVE INFLUENCED F-16 SELECTION

1. ACCORDING TO REPORTS OVER WEEKEND IN TWO DUTCH NEWSPAPERS, "HET BINNENHOF" (CATHOLIC) AND "DE WAARHEID" (COMMUNIST), ERNST HAUSER IS NOW CLAIMING THAT GENERAL DYNAMICS PAID BRIBES TO INFLUENCE SELECTION OF F-16 BY GON. "HET BINNENHOF" ACCOUNT IS THAT HAUSER TOLD REPORTERS IN WASHINGTON THAT G-D BRIBED A MEMBER OF DUTCH PARLIAMENT AND A NUMBER OF AIR FORCE OFFICERS. PRESIDENT OF LOWER HOUSE HAS REPORTEDLY ASKED FONMIN TO DETERMINE THROUGH DUTCH EMBASSY IF HAUSER ACTUALLY MADE SUCH CHARGES.

2. "DE WAARHEID'S" STORY IS THAT THREE DUTCHMEN (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED) RECEIVED BRIBES IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH LAST YEAR IN BRUSSELS VIA FORMER SECRETARY OF AIR FORCE MCLUCAS. STORY ALLEGES THAT MCLUCAS WAS ALSO IN PAY OF G-D.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MOST OF DUTCH PRESS WILL PROBABLY DISCOUNT THESE ALLEGATIONS SINCE HAUSER IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH GENERAL DYNAMICS, THEY WILL NOT BE DISCOUNTED IN TOTO. HAUSER'S RECORD FOR RELIABILITY, WHICH MANY QUESTIONED AT
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FIRST, HAD BEEN BACKED UP ENOUGH BY TESTIMONY OF SENIOR LOCKHEED OFFICIALS TO ENSURE HIM A CERTAIN DEGREE OF CREDENCE. IN ADDITION,

MAGNITUDE OF AIRCRAFT "CONTRACT OF THE CENTURY" WAS SO GREAT AND COMPETITION SO WELL KNOWN THAT MANY WILL BE READY TO BELIEVE THAT BRIBERY COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. DUTCH HAD ALREADY BEEN TREATED TO ONE BRIBERY TRIAL CONNECTED TO STARFIGHTER-REPLACEMENT CONTRACT.

4. NORTH AMERICAN DESK IN MFA TELLS US THAT THEY ARE UNAWARE OF ANY REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT OF LOWER HOUSE TO CHECK ON STORY, BUT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO RECEIVE ONE.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THESE ALLEGATIONS AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT.
BROWN

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Message Attributes

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